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SERVICE DATE – APRIL 10, 2015

DO

FR-4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 43 (Sub-No. 189X)]

Illinois Central Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—in Champaign County, Ill.

Illinois Central Railroad Company (IC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Canadian National Railway Company, has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments to abandon approximately 3.2 miles of railroad line (the Line). The Line extends between milepost 7.8 in Bondville and milepost 11 in Seymour, in Champaign County, Ill., and traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 61815, 61822, and 61875.

IC has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the Line that would have to be rerouted over other lines; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line either is pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(c) (environmental report), 49 C.F.R. § 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the abandonment shall be protected under Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) has been received, this exemption may become effective on May 12, 2015, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,¹ formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(c)(2),² and interim trail use/rail banking requests under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29 must be filed by April 20, 2015. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.28 must be filed by April 30, 2015, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

¹ The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See Exemption of Out-of-Serv. Rail Lines, 5 I.C.C. 2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

² Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. See 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(25).

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to IC's representative:
Audrey L. Brodrick, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 N. Wacker Dr., Suite 920, Chicago, IL
60606.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is
void ab initio.

IC has filed a combined environmental and historic report that addresses the
effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will
issue an environmental assessment (EA) by April 17, 2015. Interested persons may
obtain a copy of the EA by writing to OEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board,
Washington, DC 20423-0001) or by calling OEA at (202) 245-0305. Assistance for the
hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-
8339. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within
15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or interim trail use/rail banking
conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29(e)(2), IC shall file a notice of
consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and
fully abandoned the Line. If consummation has not been effected by IC's filing of a
notice of consummation by April 10, 2016, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to
consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at
“WWW.STB.DOT.GOV.”

Decided: April 3, 2015.

By the Board, Joseph H. Dettmar, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.